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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Eighteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 516th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Saturday, 10 October 1970, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. [illegible] (Venezuela)

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The meeting was called to order on Sunday, 17 September 1972, at 1.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 10: THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT: OBJECTIVES, ORGANIZATION AND PREPARATORY WORK AND PREPARATION (agenda item 4) (continued) (TD/B/L.507 and Add.1, TD/B/L.520)

1. Mr. McINTOSH said that, as a result of consultations in the working group set up by the Board at its 507th meeting, he had dealt with all matters related to the organization of the Conference, to be held at Manila, he was able to submit to the Board the organization proposals concerning the agenda for that session (TD/B/L.520). He also drew attention to a revised text circulated informally, for agenda item 17, which was to remain in square brackets pending further examination by the Board at its tenth special session. a/

2. Turning to the organization of the work of the Manila Conference, it was his understanding that there was general agreement concerning the proposals put forward in paragraph 2 of document TD/B/L.507/Add.1, subject to the following modifications: (i) the Board would decide to establish one Sessional Committee and six Committees of the Conference; as provided for in sub-paragraph (vi), the allocation of items to the Committees would be determined at the Board's tenth special session; (ii) sub-paragraph (ix) would be amended to read: "Summary records will be dispensed with for the Conference, on the understanding that the full texts of plenary statements delivered in the general debate will be issued as part of the proceedings of the Conference."

3. Mr. CHAUDHRI (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, noted that a reference had been omitted from item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda as set out in document TD/B/L.520. That item should read: "Multilateral trade negotiations: arrangements for further trade negotiations arising therefrom".

4. Mr. McINTOSH said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the proposed provisional agenda set out in document TD/B/L.520, subject to the correction noted by the representative of Colombia and on the understanding that it would revert to the wording of item 17 at its tenth special session.

5. It was so decided.

6. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board also approved the arrangements for the organization of the work of the Conference outlined in paragraph 2 of document TD/B/L.507/Add.1, subject to the amendment in sub-paragraph (ix) and it was so decided on the understanding that the allocation of items on the Conference's agenda would be determined at the Board's tenth special session.

7. It was so decided.

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a/ For this revised text, see document TD/B/INF.3.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS (agenda item 1) (continued)

(e) PROVISIONAL AGENDAS FOR THE TENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSIONS (continued) (TD/B/L.509)

8. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its previous meeting, the Board had accepted a proposal by the representative of the Sudan to include in the provisional agenda for its nineteenth regular session (TD/B/L.509) an item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations". In addition, the representative of Czechoslovakia had proposed the inclusion of an item entitled "Trade and economic aspects of disarmament", on which the Board had deferred acting a decision at the request of the spokesman for Group D, who had reserved that Group's position on the matter.

9. Mr. MATTHIAS (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of Group D, withdrew the Group's reservation.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the provisional agenda for its nineteenth regular session (TD/B/L.509), subject to the inclusion of the two additional items he had just mentioned. He would further take it that the Board authorized him, acting in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to adjust the provisional agenda as necessary in the light of developments and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to consult delegations regarding the organization of the work at that session and to circulate his proposals thereon to the Board.

11. It was so decided.

OTHER PARTICULAR MATTERS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 4) (continued)

(d) TRADE AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT (continued) (TD/B/L.517)

12. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision concerning trade and economic aspects of disarmament contained in document TD/B/L.517.

13. It was so decided.

14. Mr. GARCIA (Mexico) requested the UNCTAD secretariat to take account, in the data it provided to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, of article 10 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and of the statement made by the French representative at the tenth special session of the General Assembly concerning the establishment of a Special Disarmament Fund for Development.

15. Mr. DI Chih-min (China) said it was a well-known fact that the super-Power carrying a "socialist" signboard, for the purpose of camouflaging its acts of aggression and expansion, was always peddling disarmament and loudly preaching disarmament and peace while at the same time engaging in arms expansion and war preparation and everywhere exhibiting military might, provoking incidents and instigating wars. Those actions not only seriously threatened world peace but

also impeded the struggle of the third world to establish the new international economic order. The super-powers had not even begun to implement their own and resolutions and decisions of the conference would become mountains of paper. Facts had shown that the call for disarmament made by the super-Power as whose behest had convened the conference. Their reported genuine disarmament, but was against such disarmament. It had been found to expose the deceptive calls for disarmament of the super-powers. The developing countries, threatened collectively by the super-powers, unanimously wished to see disarmament become a reality. They demand that the savings derived from disarmament should be used for a widespread relations established on entirely reasonable request for the return of part of the wealth plundered from them by the super-powers.

16. Mr. MITCHELL (Belgium), speaking on a point of order, said it was regrettable that the representative of Cuba had continued his country's policy of creating tension in international forums by making slanderous statements which had nothing to do with UNCTAD's activities and which diverted the Second from its proper business. In his view, that representative's statement had been out of order.

(c) PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF:

(i) SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (TD/L.5..)

17. Mr. ASLAM (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, announced a number of changes to the text of the draft resolution on special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries (TD/L.510). Paragraph 4 should be omitted, and paragraph 5 amended to read:

"[Urges endorses recommends (1), agrees to] the Intergovernmental [on the Least Developed] Working Group of the second session as contained in TD/B/[ ], namely, [with increase in membership and recommendations of the Meeting on Haiti] and [requests] [should not Technical Assistance Institute] [to provide] [Development Countries (part two of TD/B/)]:"

In addition, [the Secretary-General] [is requested] [should be asked] to [and] "Reconvene the [Intergovernmental] Working Group [of seven] [group of high-level experts] late in 1979, [to] [prepare] [to] [to] [to

20. Mr. ANTOCHKIN (Czechoslovakia), speaking on behalf of Group D and referring to the proposal in document TD/B/L.510, now amended, that the Board fully endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in part two of document TD/B/501, said that any multilateral recommendations could be applicable to the socialist countries only to the extent that they took into account fundamental specific features of the socialist economic system, which differed in principle from that of the capitalist countries. Accordingly, he reaffirmed the reservations made on behalf of the Group D countries, as recorded in paragraph 75 of document TD/B/C.1.

21. On the question of fully endorsing resolution 2 (II) of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries, he reiterated the reservations made on behalf of the Group D countries, as expressed in paragraphs 49 and 150 of document TD/B/719. That resolution contained formulations that might be interpreted as an unconditional agreement by all countries with what was termed the "basic human needs" concept. In the view of the Group D countries, that concept could not be considered separately from the question of effecting major social and economic changes in developing countries and, outside the context of such reforms, they could not consider themselves bound by any recommendations which focused on the concept of "basic human needs" and oriented future activities of UNCTAD in that direction. If the draft resolution as contained in document TD/B/L.510 had been put to the vote, the Group D countries would have abstained on operative paragraphs 1 and 2.

22. Mr. ADLER (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said it was the Group's understanding that the term "bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions" as used in new paragraph 2 of the resolution just adopted referred to aid donors among the developed countries. When issuing invitations to the meeting, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD might wish to bring that understanding in mind.

(ii) SPECIFIC ACTION RELATED TO THE PARTICULAR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING ISLAND COUNTRIES (continued) (TD/B/607)

23. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board decided to take note of the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Passenger and Inter-island Services by Air or Sea for Developing Island Countries (TD/B/607).

24. It was so decided.

(iii) SPECIFIC ACTION RELATED TO THE PARTICULAR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (E/1973/57 (parts I and II)); (TD/B/704)

25. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board agreed to take note of the UNCTAD secretariat report reviewing progress in the implementation of special measures and specific action related to the particular needs of land-locked developing countries (E/1973/57 (parts I and)); of

the arrangements for the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in its resolution 95/13; and of the UNCTAD secretariat report on ocean freight rates for land-locked developing countries (TD/B/...) and of the results of that report.

30. It was so decided.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE BOARD AT THIS OR FUTURE SESSIONS, OR RELATING TO REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY AND OTHER BODIES (agenda item 5) (continued)
(TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.9 and Add.1-4; TD/B/L.514; TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.[illegible], L.12, L.13 and L.15; TD/B/L.[illegible], L.521, L.522 and L.523; TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.[illegible])

Statement by the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur of the Second Committee

31. Mr. CHATTOM (Panama), Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur of Sessional Committee I, introduced the Committee's report, as contained in documents TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.9 and Add.1-4, drawing and completed by document TD/B/L.514 and explained the status of [illegible] action on resolutions which it had considered. The Committee had approved two resolutions concerning restrictive business practices (TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.12) and preparatory work on copper (TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.13) respectively. It had also approved two decisions, one relating to the intra-state programme for commodities (TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.15) and the other to the provisional order of preferences: consultation procedure (TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.14).

32. In addition, agreement had been reached during consultations within the Sessional Committee on the text, now submitted to the Board for adoption, of a draft resolution on the integrated programme for commodities (TD/B/L.521), and draft decisions on trade and industrial co-operation between developed and developing countries (TD/B/L.516) and on economic co-operation among developing countries (TD/B/L.517). Also before the Board was a draft resolution on tungsten (TD/B/L.523) which had not been considered by the Committee but on which, as he had reported, agreement had now been reached. Finally, the Group of 77 had submitted a draft resolution on the implementation of the terms of reference beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L./Rev.1), on which agreement had been reached in the Committee.

Draft decision on trade and industrial co-operation between the developed countries and developing countries (TD/B/L.516)

33. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft decision on trade and industrial co-operation between the developed and the developing countries (TD/B/L.516), the financial implications of which were set out in document TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L./Add.1.

34. It was so decided.

35. The PRESIDENT announced that draft resolution TD/B(XVIII)/SC.1/L.9 had been withdrawn.

32. Mr. BRECKENRIDGE (Sri Lanka), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said the decision just adopted would greatly facilitate a corresponding decision by the Permanent Committee of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board. The Group of 77 was confident that due recognition would be given by UNIDO to the efforts made by the Trade and Development Board to reach a decision which successfully concluded its part in the establishment of a joint UNCTAD/UNIDO Group of Experts on trade and trade-related aspects of industrial collaboration.

33. Mr. ZHIVKOV (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf of Group B, said that it supported closer co-operation between UNIDO and UNCTAD and had taken an active part in the search for an acceptable decision to promote such co-operation. An ad hoc UNCTAD/UNIDO Group of Experts would be useful if its activities were directed towards ensuring that UNIDO industrial development programmes and UNCTAD trade policy measures, including greater access to markets, particularly for new products resulting from the implementation of UNIDO programmes, ensured the balanced development of industry and trade in the developing countries. However, the paragraph added to the Sessional Committee's report by Group B (TD/B/L.[illegible], ..., para. 15) gave cause for concern. If it was the intention of Group B to participate in the work of the proposed ad hoc Group only for the purpose of examining the practice of countries in other groups without making a concrete contribution of its own, the advisability of establishing the Group became doubtful.

Draft resolution on the Integrated Programme for Commodities (TD/B/L.521)

34. Mr. CARVER (Turkey), Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur of Sessional Committee I, said that the concluding phrase of the ninth preambular paragraph of draft resolution TD/B/L.521 had been omitted by mistake. The words "and recognizing the decision to reconvene the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities in November 1979" should therefore be added after "Integrated Programme for Commodities".

35. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt draft resolution TD/B/L.521, subject to that addition.

36. It was so decided.

37. The PRESIDENT said that draft resolution TD/B(XVIII)/SC.I/L.11/Rev.1 had been withdrawn.

Draft decision on economic co-operation among developing countries (TD/B/L.522)

38. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt draft decision TD/B/L.522.

39. It was so decided.

40. Mr. BARCIA (Mexico) pointed out that in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of the resolution just adopted, the draft resolution on economic co-operation among developing countries submitted by the Group of 77 (TD/B(XVIII)/SC.I/L.6) was to be transmitted to the second session of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries.

Draft decision on tungsten (TD/B/L.523)

41. The PRESIDENT said he understood there was agreement regarding the draft decision on tungsten contained in document TD/B/L.523, the financial implications of which appeared in document A/33/15, Vol. I, Part Three, Annex III. Consequently, the draft decision on the same subject in document TD/B(XVIII)/SC.I/L.10/Rev.1 was withdrawn. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt draft decision TD/B/L.523.

42. It was so decided.

43. Mr. ATHERTON (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to enter a reservation on the decision just taken. Since every proposal before the Preparatory Working Group had been rejected by at least one major participant in the tungsten market, his Government did not agree with the convening of two further meetings and an adequate basis for further discussions must be developed if the United States delegation was to attend such meetings. It was certainly premature to suggest that discussions on tungsten should proceed on the particular basis when there was no agreement between producers and consumers on the scale of reserves, the need for conservation measures or possible methods which might avoid [illegible] disruptive fluctuations.

44. Mr. [illegible] (France), speaking on behalf of [illegible], said that the Netherlands [illegible] that, as members of [illegible], those countries welcomed the [illegible] the successful [illegible] activities had made possible. The Board should give new impetus to consultations and preparatory work serving as [illegible] the climate of agreement that would warrant the convening of a negotiating conference. If possible before the end of 1978.

45. Mr. [illegible] (Austria) said that [illegible] as a producer of tungsten and [illegible] participated in all the sessions of the Committee on Tungsten, the [illegible] Intergovernmental Group of Experts and the Preparatory Working Group established under Board decision 165 (XVII). It was therefore familiar with the problems [illegible] during recent discussions on the subject and with the lack of progress made. There was no [illegible] of urgency and no sense of action to be taken in respect of [illegible]. The present situation did not augur for more [illegible] there was no [illegible] that [illegible] the Board. Instead [illegible] to project the future course of events. [illegible] decision 165 (XVII) [illegible] to request the Secretary-General to convene a second session of the Preparatory Working Group as an appropriate time and to have [illegible] in order to [illegible] the [illegible] between producers and consumers. He was [illegible] delegation's [illegible] that the [illegible] of the "decided" [illegible] operative paragraph of document TD/B/L.523 [illegible] privileged position [illegible] must be based on [illegible] agreement between the Governments of producer and consumer countries. However, in spite of the [illegible] his delegation had [illegible] the consensus [illegible] to stand in the way of [illegible] that seemed [illegible] possible to make progress towards [illegible] agreement even at the present stage and in order to [illegible] the spirit of co-operation which had prevailed in the discussions on the subject.

46. Mr. [illegible] (Japan), speaking on behalf of the [illegible] Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom as well as Japan, said that those countries welcomed the decision to continue the dialogue on the problems of the tungsten market and would play their part in those discussions. The concept of consultations was particularly important and should encompass consultations between governments aimed at developing a basis for that dialogue at future meetings. The Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom had joined in the consensus on the understanding that any

decision to convene a negotiating conference would be taken only by agreement between producer and consumer countries, that an adequate basis existed for such action and that a successful outcome could reasonably be expected.

47. Mr. CLARK (Australia) said it was regrettable that the Preparatory Working Group had been unable to complete its work. His Government held the view, which had been stated by most producers and a number of consumers, that an international agreement on tungsten was both necessary and feasible. His delegation was therefore pleased that it had at least been possible for the Board to agree to the continuation of the dialogue on tungsten. After some 10 years of discussions on that commodity within UNCTAD, it was necessary, in the reasonably near future and following appropriate qualitative and preparatory meetings, to move on to the negotiating stage. Australia had therefore been able to support the draft decision just adopted.

48. Mr. LAFLEUR (Canada) said that, although it was joining in the consensus, his delegation believed that, given the complexity of the issues involved, it would be premature and inappropriate to [illegible] a negotiating conference at the present stage, since the failure to reach a satisfactory result could have unfortunate consequences for prospects of tungsten. However, the decision adopted by the Board would enable the Preparatory Working Group to [illegible] and would be [illegible] to proceed to the negotiating stage. His delegation hoped that that process would take place in time to [illegible].

49. Mr. [illegible] (Bolivia) said that the decision just adopted was the result of a compromise between the desirability of proceeding [illegible] and the stabilization of the world tungsten market. [illegible] hoped that the progress towards agreement [illegible] would not be delayed. [illegible] would have a severely limiting effect on the [illegible] of tungsten. His delegation [illegible] would help to stabilize the international tungsten market and to improve the terms of trade for the developing countries. He hoped that [illegible] would be achieved in the preparatory work for the negotiations.

50. Mr. [illegible] (China) said that his delegation supported the decision just adopted. Appropriate measures to promote a negotiating conference at an early date for the purpose of concluding an international agreement on tungsten would help to stabilize the international tungsten market and to improve the terms of trade for the developing countries. He hoped that [illegible] would be achieved in the preparatory work for the negotiations.

[illegible] (TD/B/(XVIII)/C.1/L.2/Rev.1)

51. Mr. [illegible] (Peru), introducing draft resolution TD/B/(XVIII)/C.1/L.[illegible]/Rev.1, which had been submitted by the Group of 77, observed that the draft resolution had already been discussed in Sectional Committee I. He therefore assumed that it would be adopted by consensus.

52. Mr. [illegible] (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the Group B countries, said that those countries had been encouraged by the growing practice of seeking by consensus within UNCTAD and had taken it as a sign of UNCTAD's increasing effectiveness as a negotiating body. It was profoundly regrettable that efforts to reach a consensus on the draft resolution had been abandoned and that it might now be necessary to have recourse to the procedure of voting.

. Mr. ZAROUBI (translation from Arabic), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Group of 77 countries, said that those countries attached great importance to the question of the revitalization, the improved efficiency, and the reinforcement of the authority and role of the United Nations, within the limits of national jurisdiction. The participation of all States in the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had been unprecedentedly large; together or a number of issues had, in fact, been successfully resolved. It was therefore necessary to continue the negotiations with a view to arriving at a comprehensive convention on the law of the sea. Eventually, the Group's position would be that of the majority of the States participating in the Third United Nations Conference.

. Mr. ARIAS (Peru) said that it was important that certain countries should not attempt to arrange matters unilaterally or to protect the international community as a whole was to be saved from the present General Assembly would have to take a decision on the draft resolutions.

. Lastly, Peru had always attached great importance to the question of the revitalization, the improved efficiency, and the reinforcement of the authority and role of the United Nations, within the limits of national jurisdiction. The participation of all States in the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had been unprecedentedly large; together on

resolution

paragraph

64. Mr. CORNELL (Sweden) said that his country had not changed its position on the substance of General Assembly resolution 2574 D (XXIV), which it had supported. However, the question raised in the resolution just adopted should properly be left to the Conference on the Law of the Sea. Sweden's abstention in the vote in no way prejudged its position if the same matter was brought up in that Conference or in the General Assembly.

65. Mr. PARLAR (Turkey) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the resolution because it was convinced that the resources of the sea-bed were the common heritage of mankind. It hoped that the Conference on the Law of the Sea would develop rules which would be accepted and applied by the entire international community. However, its acceptance of the resolution, and of operative paragraph 2 in particular, was confined to the substance of the resolution itself and in no way implied acceptance of a new general principle applicable to all cases.

66. Mr. KUTANEN (Finland) said that his country's basic attitude towards the question of a moratorium on the exploitation of the sea-bed had been demonstrated by its vote in favour of General Assembly resolution 2574 D (XXIV). However, it had abstained in the vote on the resolution just adopted because the matter should be dealt with in the Conference on the Law of the Sea. The abstention should not be regarded as an expression of Finland's position on matters of substance.

67. Mr. GAYNOR (England) said his delegation had abstained on the vote because it considered that the Conference on the Law of the Sea, not the Board, was the correct forum in which to deal with the issues addressed by the resolution.

68. Mr. RAMLETAL (Norway) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because his Government considered that matters relating to the law of the sea should be dealt with in the Conference established for that purpose. However, with regard to the substance of the resolution, his Government shared the view that unilateral national legislation on the exploitation of the sea-bed might have undesirable consequences and had no plans to introduce such legislation.

69. Mr. LACSINA (Austria) said that his delegation was in agreement with the substance of the resolution just adopted. However, it had abstained in the vote out of procedural considerations related to the further examination of the issues involved by the Conference on the Law of the Sea and because of his country's specific position in those negotiations.

70. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because it was inappropriate to take a decision on a subject which was being dealt with in all its different aspects by the Conference on the Law of the Sea.

71. Miss PARKS (New Zealand) said that her country supported the "common heritage" principle enunciated in General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV). However, her delegation had abstained in the vote on the resolution just adopted on the grounds that the Board should not take up matters within the terms of reference of the Conference on the Law of the Sea.

72. Mr. OSTENFELD (Denmark) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because UNCTAD was not the appropriate forum in which to deal with substantive issues relating to the Conference on the Law of the Sea. However, its abstention should not be taken as prejudging Denmark's position on the substance of the resolution.

73. Mr. CASTILLO (Spain) said that his delegation, although sympathetic towards the substance of the resolution, had abstained in the vote because the Conference on the Law of the Sea was the appropriate forum in which to discuss the issue.

74. Mr. HALL (Australia) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote not because of the substance of the resolution, but because UNCTAD was not the appropriate forum in which to consider the issue.

75. Mr. SCHEIFER (Peru) said that the Board could not remain indifferent to the announcement by the Governments of certain States of unilateral actions that would jeopardize the aims for which UNCTAD had been founded. In the absence of an international régime and an international supervisory authority and without any sharing of profits among all countries, the exploitation of the sea-bed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction would not only constitute an abuse by the States engaging in such exploitation vis-à-vis other States but would adversely affect the prices of and markets for minerals produced on land, reduce the export earnings of developing countries and cause further very serious harm to the economies and trade of these countries. Such exploitation would widen the gap between rich and poor nations, because those lacking the necessary financial and technological resources would be excluded from the common heritage. What was to have been an unprecedented joint venture and a major instrument in the establishment of the new international economic order would become a regressive factor which would promote the hegemony of the most powerful States.

76. The resolution was a restatement in the economic sector, which was UNCTAD's sphere of competence, of the declarations made by members of the Group of 77 and other countries in the legal forum of the Conference on the Law of the Sea and might be followed by similar action in the political forum of the General Assembly. He hoped that the Governments of those States to which the resolution was addressed would reconsider their position and refrain from taking unilateral action which might have dangerous consequences for international relations.

Adoption of the report of Sessional Committee I

77. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt, for incorporation as appropriate in its own report, the report of Sessional Committee I (TD/B/XVIII)/SC.I/L.5 and Add. 1-11, as amended and completed by TD/B/L.514) and, in so doing, to adopt the various draft resolutions and decisions on which the Committee had agreed (TD/B(XVIII)/SC.I/L.12, L.13, L.14 and L.15).

78. It was so decided.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (agenda item 7) (continued)

(g) DOCUMENTATION PROBLEMS AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE WORK PROGRAMME OF UNCTAD (continued) (TD/B/L.520)

79. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) introducing the draft proposal set out in document TD/B/L.520, said it was a simple text which had no financial implications

90. Mr. HUTTEBRÄUCKER (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the Group B countries, said that the draft proposal had been circulated too late for the delegations of those countries to receive instructions from their Governments on the subject. He therefore requested that consideration of the matter should be deferred until the tenth special session of the Board.

91. Mr. PHILLIPPINES (Philippines) said that that course of action was acceptable to him.

92. The Board decided to defer consideration of draft proposal TD/B/L.[illegible] until its tenth special session.

(b) NOTIFICATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE RESIDENT MACHINERY OF UNCTAD (continued) (TD/B/L.512 and Add.1)

93. Mr. [illegible] (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, proposed that, in view of the need for further consultations with regard to draft resolution TD/B/L.512, consideration of the draft resolution should be deferred until the Board's tenth special session.

94. It was so decided.

(c) REVIEW OF THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS (TD/B/L.[illegible], TD/B/L.[illegible])

95. Mr. HERRING (Director, Division for Programme Support Services) drew attention to the secretariat note (TD/B/L.[illegible]) containing a draft calendar of sessions for the remainder of 1978 and for 1979 and a tentative schedule of sessions for 1980 and 1981, and to document TD/B/L.[illegible], which incorporated a number of changes in the proposed arrangements. A further change would be required as a result of the recent decision to hold in Geneva a further session of the Conference on the Law of the Sea early in 1979, since General Assembly resolution 3067 (XXIX) stated that the Conference was to be accorded priority in relation to other United Nations activities, except those programmes established by the Charter of the United Nations. In order to accommodate the tenth special session of the Board before the Manila Conference, the Conference on the Law of the Sea would not start until 19 March 1979, but it would be necessary to hold the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Group on a Convention on International Multimodal Transport from 26 February to 9 March 1979, if the Group decided at its forthcoming fifth session that another session would be required. The United Nations Conference on the Convention itself was scheduled to be held from 22 October to 16 November 1979, subject to the approval of the General Assembly on the results achieved at the forthcoming session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Group.

96. The Board was requested to authorize an exception to the rule that meetings should be held in Geneva to allow permission for the resumed third session of the Interim Committee for the United Nations Conference to Negotiate an International Arrangement to Replace the International Wheat Agreement, 1971, as extended, to be held in London, where the International Wheat Council, which had offered to service the meeting, had its headquarters.

87. After the fourth session of UNCTAD in Nairobi, the Board had accepted the proposal of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that attention should be concentrated on meetings under the Integrated Programme for Commodities and that neither the Permanent Group on Synthetics and Substitutes nor the Committee on Commodities should meet before the forthcoming Manila Conference. In view of the fact that the Integrated Programme had been extended to the end of 1979, the Board might wish to defer until 1980 the seventh session of the Permanent Group on Synthetics and Substitutes, scheduled for 1979, and to cancel the eighth session, tentatively scheduled for 1981.

88. Since the calendar of meetings would be reviewed at the Manila Conference, the secretariat would prefer not to make immediate proposals for the dates of the new meetings resulting from decisions taken by the Board at its current session. In any case, most of them would be held after the Manila Conference. They would, however, all appear under the appropriate heading in the calendar published by the secretariat after the present session of the Board. Finally, with regard to the programme of meetings under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the Board might wish to note that arrangements had been made, after consultations with the Chairman of the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee and the regional groups, to hold the Fifth Preparatory Meeting on Copper from 15 to 30 October 1978.

89. Mr. STEVENS (United States of America) requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to consult with the Group co-ordinators about the possibility of holding a meeting on tropical timber from 18 to 22 December 1978, in place of the meeting on iron ore that might be postponed until 1979. It was the view of many delegations that tropical timber should be given greater priority under the Integrated Programme for Commodities and that the two iron ore meetings had been scheduled too close together.

90. Mr. ODA (Japan) supported the request made by the United States representative.

91. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Board approved the draft calendar of meetings for 1979 and the tentative schedule for 1980 and 1981 set out in document TD/B/...406, as amended and supplemented by document TD/B/...919 and the statement made by the Director of the Division for Programme Support Services, and that it took note of the relevant financial implications (TD/B/...516).

92. It was so decided.

(j) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACTIONS OF THE BOARD (TD/B/...516)

93. The Board took note of the statement of financial implications contained in document TD/B/...516.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (agenda item 9) (TD/B/...511 and Add.1-9; TD/B/(XVIII)/Misc.5)

94. Mr. ROUHIA (Iran), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Board on its eighteenth session (TD/B/...511 and Add.1-9) and drew attention to the amendments to Annexes I, II, V and VI contained in document TD/B(XVIII)/Misc.5, which had been received too late for inclusion. In addition, the following

paragraph, submitted by the representative of China, should be inserted after paragraph 7 of document TD/B/L.511/Add.5, as revised in document TD/B(XVIII)/Misc. 5:

"The representative of China said that the Soviet Union, through the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, has slandered China as 'imperialist' and 'hegemonistic'. This was a case of the thief shouting 'catch the thief' and clever in the extreme. He added that imperialism and hegemonism were a self-description of the Soviet Union and that no distortion and slander by the Soviet Union representative could hurt China's foreign policy or cover up the wild ambition of the Soviet Union to launch aggression and expansion and to seek world hegemony."

95. The PRESIDENT reminded the Board that it had already adopted the reports of Sessional Committees I and II, which constituted chapters II and IV of its report. He suggested that the Board should authorize the Rapporteur to complete the report as appropriate and to make any necessary editorial changes to the text.

96. It was so decided.

97. The draft report, as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

SIGNATURE OF THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

98. Mr. COREA (Secretary-General of UNCTAD) announced that on 14 September 1978, he and the representative of the Government of the Philippines had signed the host country agreement for the holding of the fifth session of the Conference at Manila in May 1979. The early conclusion of that agreement would greatly facilitate the preparations for the Conference and augured well for its success.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

99. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared closed the eighteenth session of the Board.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.